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Message Text

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14
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W
---------- 051771
P 290909 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8196
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

S E C R E T TAIPEI 1919

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MG, TW, CH
SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE MONGOLIAN PEOPLE' S REPUBLIC

REF: STATE 057054

1. SUMMARY: FONMIN EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN OVER TIMING OF US MOVE TOWARDS ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH MPR. HE THOUGH IT COULD HAVE A PROFOUND IMPACT ON MORALE HERE AND MIGHT ABRUPTLY PRECIPITATE SERIOUS DETERIORATION IN THE LOCAL SITUATION. HE NOTED THAT DESPITE SURFACE CALM, PUBLIC' S ENDURANCE HAD BEEN STRAINED BY REPEATED BLOWS AND IT WOULD BE BEST IF THIS ONE WERE SPACED OUT TO LIGHTEN ITS IMPACT AFTER THE SHOCK RESULTING FROM THE IMPENDING ESTABLISHMENT OF THE US LIAISON OFFICE IN PEKING. HE REQUESTED THAT AT MINIMUM US EITHER DEFER OR DRAG OUT PROPOSED NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR INFORMED FONMIN OF US INTENT TO NEGOTIATE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH MPR ALONG LINES PARAS 1 AND 2 REFTEL, ANDK REQUESTED THAT ROC HOLD INFORMATION CLOSELY.

3. FOLLOWING AMBASSADOR' S CLARIFICATION THAT NEGOTIATIONS NOT YET ACTUALLY UNDERWAY AND THAT IT PRESENTLY IMPOSSIBLE TO ANTICIPATE THEIR COURSE AND DATE OF COMPLETIO N, FONMIN STATED THAT ROC LONG STANDING OPPOSITION TO
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THIS MOVE WAS WELL KNOWN TO US AND IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY FOR HIM TO RECAPITULATE STRONGLY HELD ROC CONVICTIONS ON THE

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SUBJECT. HE STATED KEEN ROC REGRET AT DECISION, AND SAID
THAT THE NEWS MADE THE DAY AN UNHAPPY ONE FOR HIS GOVERNMENT.
WANTED TO EMPHASIZE THAT DEVELOPMENT WOULD CONSTITUTE A
NEW SHOCK TO THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY, AND WOULD HAVE AN
EXTREMELY UNFAVORABLE IMPACT ON LEGISLATIVE YUAN AND
THE PRESS IN PARTICULAR. HE ASSERTED THAT BECAUSE OF ITS
PROMINENCE OVER THE YEARS SINCE 1961, MONGOLIAN ISSUE WAS
WIDELY REGARDED HERE AS A SYMBOL OF THE STATE OF ROC- US
RELATIONS. THE US DECISION TO MOVE AHEAD ON RECOGNITION,
COMING AGAINST BACKGROUND OF PRESENT DISTURBING COURSE OF
US- PRC DEVELOPMENTS, WOULD LEAD PUBLIC OPINION TO FEEL THAT
OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS WERE RAPIDLY DRIFTING APART. FONMIN
REFERRED TO ROC INQUIRY TO US ON ISSUE EARLIER THIS YEAR
AND EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT US WAS MOVING AHEAD
SO RAPIDLY. HE VOICED PARTICULAR ANXIETY ABOUT TIMING OF
OUR MOVE, NOTING THAT PUBLIC SENSITIVITY TO IT WOULD BE
INTENSIFIED BY ITS CLOSE PROXIMITY TO A SEQUENCE OF
RECENT ADVERSE DEVELOPMENTS FOR ROC, INCLUDING US- PRC
AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH LIAISON OFFICES, SPAIN' S RECENT
BREAK AND DISQUIETING RUMBLES FROM LATIN AMERICA AND SOUTH-
EAST ASIA. (HE FELT MALAYSIA' S RECOGNITION OF PRC WAS
MATTER OF WEEKS , POSSIBLY DAYS.)

4. FONMIN STATED THAT DESPITE BUFFETING ENCOUNTERED BY
ROC, POPULAR MORALE WAS STILL GOOD. THIS HAD BEEN HELPED
BY THE GOVERNMENT' S POSTURE OF CALM CONFIDENCE,
ITS COMMITMENT OF HARD WORK, AND THE STRONG LEADERSHIP
PROVIDED BY PREMIER CHIANG. YET IT WAS APPARENT THAT
BENEATH THE CALM SURFACE, SERIOUS MISGIVINGS EXIST. THIS
HAD BEEN FORCEFULLY BROUGHT HOME TO HIM IN A RECENT APPEAR-
ANCE AT THE LEIGSLATIVE YUAN WHERE MEMBERS HAD REPEATEDLY
QUESTIONED HIM IN A RATHER SKEPTICAL WAY ABOUT US REAL
INTENTIONS. EVEN THE ECONOMIC HORIZON NOW HAD CLOUDS
FORMING AS A RESULT OF MONETARY INSTABILITY, HIGH PRICES
OF ESSENTIAL IMPORTS AND INFLATIONARY PRESSURE. THE
SLIGHTEST ECONOMIC DOWNTURN WOULD HAVE A DISPROPORTIONATE
PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT AND WOULD GIVE RISE TO SERIOUS
POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS. A US MOVE ON MONGOLIA AT JUST
THIS MOMENT COULD IN EFFECT PUT TOO GREAT A STRAIN ON
PUBLIC CONFIDENCE ALREADY BUFFETED BY A SERIES
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OF ADVERSE EVENTS . IT MIGHT ABRUPTLY PRECIPITATE A SERIOUS
DETERIORATION IN THE SITUATION.

5. THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED HIS BELIEF THAT THE EFFECTS
OF THE PROSPECTIVE ACTION WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE SO SERIOUS.
HE STRESSED HIS CONFIDENCE THAT THE ASSURANCES HE HAD JUST
CONVEYED IN SECOND HALF OF US MESSAGE WOULD HAVE A STRONG
COUNTERBALANCING EFFECT. MOREOVE R, OUR MOVE ON MONGOLIA
HAD NO DIRECT RELATIONSHIP TO OUR PRC POLICY AND IN FACT

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MIGHT NOT BE PRECISELY WELCOMED BY PRC.

6. THE FONMIN REITERATED HIS STRONGEST CONCERN ABOUT THE TIMING OF THE US MOVE. THE ROC HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO A LONG SERIES OF PAINFUL BLOWS. ITS ENDURANCE HAD BEEN STRAINED. IF US POLICY IN FACT IS TOSUPPORT STABILITY ON TAIWAN, ACTION ON MONGOLIAN RECOGNITION SHOULD BE DELAYED. IN CONCLUSION, FONMIN ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO CONVEY VERY FULLY TO USG THE DEPTH OF ROC' S CONCERN AT THE SERIOUS IMPACT US RCOGNITION OF MONGOLIA WOULD HAVE ON MORALE HERE AT THIS TIME AND TRANSMIT STRONG ROC PLEA THAT AT THE LEAST NEGOTIATIONS BE EITHER DEFERRED OR SPUN OUT OVER AN EXTENDED PERIOD.

7. COMMENT: A SUPPLEMENTARY ACCOUNT OF FONMIN' S RUNDOWN OF DIPLOMATIC SITUATION FACED BY GRC WILL BE EMBODIED IN SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE. EMBASSY COMMENTS WILL ALSO FOLLOW IN SEPTEL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TAIPEI01919
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730346/abqcdxqs.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: STATE 057054
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24-Aug-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE MONGOLIAN PEOPLE' S REPUBLIC
TAGS: PFOR, MG, TW, CH
To: STATE INFO HONG KONG
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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